9th August 1965]

Procurement of Paddy and Rice

* 86 *Q.*—Dr. H. V. HANDE : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the quantity of paddy and rice procured by the State Government from 1st October 1964 to 10th May 1965;

(*b*) the working cost price and the price at which paddy and rice were sold;

(*c*) the quantity of paddy and rice received from the Food Trading Corporation up to 10th May 1965; and

(*d*) the price paid by the Madras Government to the Food Trading Corporation?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) Five lakhs fifty six thousand two hundred and forty-one (5,56,241) tonnes of rice were procured by the State Government during the period from 1st October 1964 to 10th May 1965;

(*b*) Paddy was purchased at the prices notified by the Government for 1964–65 season. The paddy was procured either at the support price fixed or at the maximum prices fixed by the Government. The release prices were fixed by the Collectors, after taking into account the cost price, hulling charges and other incidental charges. The release prices so arrived at by the Collectors were within the maximum notified prices, except in certain exceptional cases.

(*c*) Nil.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Dr. H. V. HANDE : Sir, from the statement furnished by the Hon Minister, we do not have any information about the purchase price and sale price of paddy?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : Sir, a few days ago, in reply to a question I have given categorically all the facts and figures.

Dr. H. V. HANDE : Sir, will the Government explain the financial liability on the State Exchequer on account of this commitment of our Government to the Food Corporation ?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : I want notice of a separate question, Sir.

Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, is there any difference in the price of rice sold by the Food Corporation and the price at which it is sold by the authorised agents and co-operative stores?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : Sir, the Food Corporation does not sell rice to the co-operative stores. As far as our State is concerned, the Food Corporation is in charge of moving Government stocks from Andhra to our State and handing over that stock to us.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: Sir, my question is different. Is there any difference between the price at which rice is sold to the Food Corporation and the price at which it is sold to the wholesalers and the retailers?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: Sir, we do not sell rice to the Food Corporation as such. Whatever rice is to be moved to Kerala is handed over to the Food Corporation at a fixed price. I do not think there is any difference. If the hon. Member requires a specific answer, he may put a separate question.

திரு. எம். சங்கரலிங்கம் பிள்ளை: ஒரு விவசாயி இடமிருந்து நெல்லைக் கொள்முதல் செய்யும்போது தலைக்கு 22, 24 பைசா என்று வாங்கி விலைக்கு கொடுக்கும்போது 30 ரூபாய் வரை ஆகிறது. ஆகவே வியாபாரிகளுக்கு அதிக லாபம் வருவதால், கிராமப்பகுதிகளில் நெல்லை மக்களுக்கு விநியோகிப்பதற்கு உரிய முறையை அரசாங்கம் யோசிக்குமா ?

கனம் திரு. வி. ராமய்யா: இப்போதிருக்கிற நிலையில் அரிசியாகத்தான் கொடுத்துவருகிறோம். நெல்லாகக் கொடுப்பது என்றால் அது பரிசீலிக்க வேண்டிய விஷயம்.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB: Sir, what was the targeted quantity of rice or paddy for procurement during the period in question ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: There is no target as such. The Government are buying whatever is the marketable surplus.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Is there any difference between the price we pay to the Andhra Government for the rice supplied by them and the price at which we are selling rice to Kerala, and if so, what it is ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: Sir, the prices vary according to the varieties.

Procurement of paddy.

*87 *Q.*—SRI M. SANKARALINGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state whether the Government are aware of the fact that the agents appointed by the Government for the procurement of paddy are collecting 15 paise per bag on account of measurement charges from the ryots ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: The agents appointed by the Collector for the procurement of paddy are not collecting measurement charges at 0.15 Paise per bag from the ryots, in any of the districts.

Assistant Surgeons.

*88 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN (on behalf of SRI V. K. Ramaswamy Mudaliar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Assistant Surgeons in service under the emergency provisions;